

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 AID-05 /117 W

-----126083 270257Z /14

R 261110Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3793

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4247

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, GH, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS GHANA

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA VISITED GHANA MAY 14-15 TO EXPLAIN SPAIN'S POSITION ON CANARY ISLANDS AND ITS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH BETTER RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES. SPANISH EMBASSY IN ACCRA DOES NOT BELIEVE VISIT WILL DETER GHANA FROM VOTING AGAINST SPAIN AT JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM.
END SUMMARY

2. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MARCELINO OREJA MET WITH HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG AND COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI TO PUSH GOS VIEW OF CANARY ISLANDS. SPANISH EMBASSY TELLS US THAT TRIP IS PART OF TWO-PRONGED DEMARCHE BY PARLIAMENT AND BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON THIS ISSUE. A GROUP OF SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS FIRST VISITED GHANA MAY 4-5 TO REGISTER "SHOCK FELT BY PEOPLE OF SPAIN" WHEN AT LIBREVILLE MEETING LAST YEAR THE OAU
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DECIDED TO SEND A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO CANARY ISLANDS. OREJA'S OWN TRIP, DESIGNED TO EXPRESS "SHOCK FELT BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT," WAS APPARENTLY LAID ON AT LAST MINUTE IN WAKE OF HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT RECENT OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN TRIPOLI.

3. BOTH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OREJA ASKED GHANA TO REVERSE ITS LIBREVILLE VOTE AND SUPPORT GOS POSITION AT KHARTOUM MEETING. WHILE FELLI AND OTHER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS LISTENED POLITELY AND EVEN EXPRESSED SOME SYMPATHY FOR SPANISH POSITION, SPANISH EMBASSY HERE DOES NOT THINK GOG WILL WANT TO GO OUT ON A LIMB BY ACTUALLY BACKING SPAIN AT KHARTOUM; EMBASSY THUS THINKS IT LIKELY OAU WILL APPROVE TRIPOLI RESOLUTIONS DESPITE GOS EFFORTS.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF OAU AFFAIRS TOLD POLOFF THAT IN HIS OPINION THERE IS NO COLONIAL OPPRESSION OR LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN CANARY ISLANDS. HE UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE SPAIN ATTACHES TO PREVENTING AN OFFICIAL OAU FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM VISITING ISLANDS AND QUIETLY APPLAUDS GOS WILLINGNESS TO LET AMBASSADORS FROM OAU STATES (BUT NOT OAU REPS PER SE) VISIT THE ISLANDS TO CHECK OUT LOCAL CONDITIONS AND REPORT TO OAU. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE ON HOW KHARTOUM MEETING WOULD TURN OUT. CURRENT OFFICIAL GOG POSITION ON ISSUE WAS STATED BY FELLI ON MAY 15 WHEN SEEING OREJA OFF: "GHANA WILL SUPPORT ANY DECISION BY THE OAU ON THE CANARY ISLANDS' MOVE FOR INDEPENDENCE."

5. WHILE CANARY ISLANDS ISSUE WAS MAIN POINT OF RECENT
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SPANISH TRIPS, OREJA ALSO TOLD HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG THAT "IT IS NOW A CARDINAL AIM OF SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY TO HAVE STRONGER TIES WITH AFRICA." OREJA HIMSELF--YOUNG, VIGOROUS AND FRIENDLY--MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION HERE AND UNDOUBTEDLY STRENGTHENED HIS GOVERNMENT'S GOOD BUT VERY MODEST RELATIONS WITH GHANA. BORN

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